

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4.0 APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Sections 4.1 through 4.3 of this draft statewide program environmental impact report (EIR) present a discussion of existing conditions, environmental impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project, mitigation measures to reduce the level of impact, and residual significant impacts (i.e., impacts that would be significant and unavoidable despite the imposition of any proposed mitigation measures). Issues evaluated in these sections consist of the range of environmental topics originally identified for review in the notice of preparation (NOP) and initial study (IS) prepared for the proposed project. The NOP/IS is included as Appendix C. Sections 4.1 through 4.3 each include the following components.

- ▶ **Regulatory Background:** This subsection presents information on the laws, regulations, plans, and policies that relate to the issue area being discussed. Regulations originating from the federal, state, and local levels are discussed as appropriate.
- ▶ **Existing Conditions:** This subsection presents the existing environmental conditions throughout the state as appropriate for the specific topic area, in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (State CEQA Guidelines) Section 15125. The discussions of the environmental setting focus on information relevant to the issue under evaluation.
- ▶ **Environmental Impacts:** This subsection identifies the impacts of the proposed project on the existing environment, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15125 and 15143. Before presenting an evaluation of impacts, the section describes the analysis methodology used, and the thresholds of significance used to identify impacts are then listed. Project impacts are identified alphanumerically and sequentially throughout this section. For example, impacts in Section 4.1 are identified as 4.1-1, 4.2-2, and so on. An impact statement precedes the discussion of each impact and provides a summary of the impact and its level of significance. The discussion that follows the impact statement includes the evidence on which a conclusion is made regarding the level of impact. The discussions of cumulative impacts and growth-inducing impacts are presented in Chapter 7.
- ▶ **Mitigation Measures:** This subsection identifies potentially feasible mitigation measures to reduce significant and potentially significant impacts of the proposed project, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15002(a)(3), 15021(a)(2), and 15091(a)(1). Each mitigation measure is identified alphanumerically to correspond with the number of the impact being reduced by the measure. For example, Impact 4.1-1 would be mitigated with Mitigation Measure 4.1-1. This subsection also describes whether the mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. Significant and unavoidable impacts are identified as appropriate in this subsection, as well as in the “Residual Significant Impacts” subsection described below. Significant and unavoidable impacts are also summarized in Chapter 7.
- ▶ **Implementation:** This section identifies the agency responsible for implementation of the mitigation measures.
- ▶ **Significant After Mitigation:** This section identifies impacts that would be reduced to less than significant and any significant impacts that would remain significant following implementation of the mitigation measures.